

In re Appl. No. 09/144,851

REMARKS

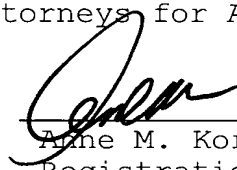
The present Supplemental Amendment is submitted in order better to define the invention.

As discussed during the recent personal interview, the present invention is directed to a method for making fruit vinegar in which the citric acid content of the juice is reduced, rather than by raising the pH. The applicants are currently conducting experiments to demonstrate that the concentration of citric acid is critical, rather than the pH of the juice fermented.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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In re Appl. No. 09/141,851

"Version with markings to show changes"

21. (Twice Amended) A method for producing a fruit vinegar comprising subjecting to acetic acid fermentation by acetic acid bacteria in the presence of ethanol one member selected from the group consisting of (a) and (b), wherein

(a) is at least one member selected from the group consisting of lemon juice, lime juice, yuzu juice, kabosu juice, sudachi juice, and shii kuwasa juice, wherein said at least one member represents one member or a mixture of plural members and has a pH value of 3.0 or more; wherein said at least one member is

(1) juice having naturally said pH value of 3.0 or more;

(2) juice having said pH value of 3.0 or more adjusted,

not by addition of an agent to neutralize citric acid but by reducing citric acid content, or

(3) a mixture of (1) and (2); and

(b) a dilution of (a);

wherein the reducing of citric acid content in (2) has been effected by

(i) adding calcium carbonate to the non-yet-pH-adjusted, one member or mixture of plural members or each of the plural members before preparing the mixture of plural members, and removing precipitated calcium citrate therefrom or

(ii) contacting resin with the non-yet-pH-adjusted, one members or mixture of plural members or each of the plural members before preparing the mixture of plural members, thereby removing

In re Appl. No. 09/144,851

citric acid therefrom.